

DEPARTMENT OF NATURAL RESOURCES
AND CONSERVATION
LIBBY UNIT OFFICE



BRIAN SCHWEITZER, GOVERNOR

STATE OF MONTANA

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177 State Lands Office Road,
LIBBY, MT 59923

March 13, 2009

Dear Interested Parties:

The Department of Natural Resources and Conservation, Libby Unit is proposing a timber harvest on approximately 610 acres on two parcels of State Trust Land located in T30N R31W Sec. 20 and T30N R31W Sec. 16. A brief description of the proposed action is listed below:

- 1) Sell approximately 3-4 million board feet of timber to generate revenue for the Common School (CS) trust and Public Building (PB) trust and to meet annual timber harvest levels mandated by state law.
- 2) Use silvicultural treatments to promote the development of historic stand conditions emphasizing retention and/or regeneration of ponderosa pine and western larch.
- 3) Manage these lands in a way that would reduce fuels and the potential for a wildfire to become a stand replacing fire, putting at risk the City of Libby's municipal water supply.

Preliminary field observations indicate that 5 miles of new road construction would be required to access timber. Ground based logging systems would be utilized on approximately 350 acres, cable based logging systems would be utilized on the remainder of acres. Proposed silvicultural treatments would include Commercial Thinning and Seed Tree cutting. Follow-up treatments could include machine piling and scarification, chipping and hand planting tree seedlings. Road construction could begin in the summer of 2009 and harvest activities would begin in the summer/fall of 2010.

This notice is to inform you of the proposed action and to solicit your comments regarding this timber harvest plan. Please submit your written comments by April 10, 2009 to Jeremy Rank, DNRC Libby Unit, 177 State Lands Office Road, Libby, MT 59923, or email to jrank@mt.gov.

Thank you for your interest in state forest land management.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Jeremy Rank".

Jeremy Rank,
Libby Unit Forester